

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3090

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION DURBAN FROM JOHANNESBURG DECEMBER 10,
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJ: TUCSA SCHISM

FOR HOLMES FROM PURCELL

1. PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF THIS MESSAGE ARE TO ADVISE YOU
CONCERNING TUCSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S POSITION IN WORSENING
DISPUTE WITH--TO USE LANGUAGE OF NATAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT--"THE LEFT WING OF THE TUCSA TRADE UNION MOVEMENT"--
AND TO REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON DURBAN UNION'S POSITION.

2. VERY BRIEFLY, WITH NATIONALISTS PRESUMABLY ON LOOKOUT FOR
READILY EXPLOITABLE EMOTIONAL ISSUES SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO
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SCHEDULE ELECTIONS IN 1974, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VERY CONCERNED

THAT THEY WILL ZERO IN ON HARRIET BOLTON AND CO. AS PRETEXT FOR USING MULTI-RACIAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AS WHIPPING BOY. FOR THIS REASON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO DENY PUBLICLY THAT TUCSA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH DURBAN STRIKES LAST JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. TUCSA GENERAL SECRETARY GROBBELAAR AND OTHER TOP NATIONAL LEADERS PARTICULARLY DISPLEASED WITH MRS. BOLTON, WHO, ACCORDING TO GROBBELAAR, HAS BEEN FALLING MORE AND MORE UNDER INFLUENCE OF CERTAIN YOUNG NEO-MARXISTS (UNNAMED) AND OTHER ANTI-TUCSA STUDENT ACTIVISTS AND INTELLECTUALS AND WHO, AT DECEMBER 4 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO CHARGE AALC WITH BEING CIA FRONT. FOR GROBBELAAR AND CO. ONLY QUESTION ABOUT MRS. BOLTON AT THIS POINT IS WHETHER SHE IS RINGLEADER OR DUPE. THEY CAN'T DECIDE WHICH.

3. GROBBELAAR AND CO. OBVIOUSLY WISH BOLTON AND CO. WHO HAVE REPEATEDLY VIOLATED TRADE UNION DISCIPLINE AND STRAYED OFF IDEOLOGICAL RESERVATION WHILE SHOWING NO CONTRITION WHATSOEVER WHEN CALLED UPON TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS, WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE IN DISAFFILIATING FROM TUCSA. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, NO PLANS TO EXCOMMUNICATE THEM IF ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NO WISH TO CAUSE BOAT TO ROCK ANY MORE THAN IT IS ALREADY ROCKING.

4. IN DEFENSE OF TUCSA WHICH HAS BEEN CONDUCTING ITSELF IN RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE MANNER SINCE VOTING UNANIMOUSLY IN AUGUST TO MAKE WAR ON FRAME AND TO ORGANIZE BLACKS, GROBBELAAR CITES CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS ORGANIZATION HAS HAD IN GETTING FRAME AND SAG TO RAISE WAGES IN COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY DESPITE DURBAN UNION'S EMBARRASSING FAILURE TO PREPARE ADEQUATELY FOR SHOWDOWN MEETING WITH FRAME IN DURBAN IN SEPTEMBER. GROBBELAAR ALSO POINTS OUT THAT TUCSA POWERLESS TO ORGANIZE BLACKS ANY FASTER THAN INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATES WILLING AND ABLE TO UNDERTAKE EFFECTIVE ORGANIZING EFFORTS.

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